

November 28, 2006

**OWENSBORO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
LOCAL/STATE BOARD FACILITIES HEARING
AMENDMENT NO. 1**

A Local/State public hearing was held at the Owensboro Board of Education Central Office on November 27, 2006, at 5:30 PM (local time). The purpose of the public hearing was to propose an amended District Facility Plan developed by the Owensboro Public Schools Local Planning Committee. The Local Planning Committee (LPC) voted unanimously in favor of the proposed amended plan and the Board voted 4-0 to approve the amendment.

There were 31 persons at the hearing exclusive of the hearing officer in attendance. Brad Stanley, Assistant Superintendent, served as the locally-appointed hearing officer. Dr. Larry Vick, Superintendent; Jane Haase, School Board member; Allen Howard, Director of Maintenance; Anita Burnette, Owensboro High School Principal, several staff, parents, and community representatives as well as three media representatives were present.

COMMENTS

Allen Howard called the public hearing to order. The hearing officer, Brad Stanley, outlined the purpose of the hearing and the hearing procedures in accordance with 702 KAR 1:001. It was explained that those persons wishing to speak would be given the opportunity and that written statements would be accepted. It was also noted that all considerations will be made available to the Kentucky Board of Education via the hearing officer's report. The hearing officer read the proposed amendment to the District Facility Plan that includes: the changing Longfellow Educational Center to a "transitional center" and Seven Hills Elementary School to a 9-12 facility, removing several projects, and including amendments to the Owensboro High School Facilities Plan.

The floor was opened to those who wished to make a statement.

- Dr. Emil Ahnell, Owensboro High School (OHS) neighbor on McCreary Avenue, voiced concerns about the noise from the air conditioning units and the band practicing at the high school.
- Norma Tipton, Alderson Court resident, also voiced concern with the sound problems.
- Gary Adams, Secretary-Treasurer of the Preservation Alliance of Daviess County, spoke to address the status of the Longfellow building. He asked the Board of Education to issue a challenge to the architects to integrate Longfellow into the plan.
- Laura Morris said that she would like more representation to decide the use of historic buildings and that the access of information has been difficult.
- Catherine Shelton, Board member of the Dogwood Azalea Neighborhood Alliance, agreed that information was not readily available earlier.
- David Edds, OHS alumnus and McCreary Avenue resident, is concerned about property values and would like solid ideas that are being planned for the OHS project. He wants the trees along the border maintained as a barrier and a resolution to drainage issues bordering the former practice field. He also has concerns with the sound of the band practicing. He suggested a fence be built as a resolution to the problem.

- Jack Thayer, Griffith Avenue resident, suggested that if the Longfellow building is demolished that the Board of Education provide funds to repair homes damaged by the demolition.
- Sue Thayer, Griffith Avenue resident, said she is concerned about the look and beauty of the Griffith Avenue area particularly the trees that may be cut down.
- Kimberly Johnson, Griffith Avenue resident, would like more input later with future opportunities for suggestions. She is also concerned about the impact on the look of Griffith Avenue.
- Norma Tipton spoke again. She voiced safety concerns about the cars driven by OHS students and the elementary school buses dropping off students in the same area at the same time. She asked for a plan for the flow of traffic.
- Brad Stanley thanked everyone for attending and invited them to all Board meetings with the next being December 14th at 4:30 p.m. at Central Office. The meeting agendas and board meeting minutes are posted on our website.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Amended District Facility Plan developed by the Owensboro Public Schools Local Planning Committee and adopted by the Owensboro Board of Education be approved as the District Facility Plan for the Owensboro Public School District. A copy of the amended plan is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Brad Stanley, Hearing Officer

Assistant Superintendent

Respectfully submitted,

L. Rodney Bennett

KDE Facilities Management

cc: Mark W. Ryles, Director
Planning File

Attachments: Owensboro Public School District Facility Plan